

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 NAIROBI 2678

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, PEPR, ET, SO, US, KE
SUBJECT: HARROP VISIT: DISCUSSION WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY

1. SUMMARY: BILL HARROP ON RETURN TRIP FROM ACCOMPANYING DAVID AARON TO ADDIS ABABA ASSURED GOK THAT US SEES SOMALI WITHDRAWAL FROM OGADEN AS ESSENTIAL TO RESOLUTION OF CONFLICT IN HORN, AND IS ACTIVELY SEEKING OBTAIN WITHDRAWAL. HARROP DISCUSSED POSSIBILITY OF UNSC ACTION AND DESCRIBED THE DISTABILIZING IMPACT UPON THE REGION AND BEYOND OF CONTINUED HUGH SOVIET AND CUBAN MILITARY PRESENCE. ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER REHEARSED FACT THAT KENYA'S FIRST SECURITY PRIORITY WAS DEFENSE AGAINST SOMALIA. NG'ANG'A SAID KENYANS IN WASHINGTON INTEND DISCUSS THE HORN AND KENYA'S URGENT SECURITY NEEDS. AMBASSADOR PRESSED FOR MORE DETAILS PRIOR TO VISIT ON MATTERS KENYANS INTENDED TO RAISE IN WASHINGTON AND, PARTICULARLY, ON MILITARY ASSISTANCE REQUEST. END SUMMARY.

2. HARROP, ACCOMPANIED BY MYSELF AND DCM, MET TODAY WITH NICOLAS NG-ANG'A, PERMANENT SECRETARY AT THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, WHO IS ACTING MINISTER IN ABSENCE OF MINISTER
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WAIYAKI AT OAU MEETING IN TRIPOLI. HARROP HAD BEEN SCHEDULED TO MEET WITH VICE PRESIDENT MOI, WHO AT LAST MINUTE WAS UNABLE TO KEEP APPOINTMENT.

3. HARROP BEGAN CONVERSATION BY BRIEFING NG'ANG'A ON ADDIS TALKS, STRESSING DESIRE OF US TO KEEP LINES TO PMAC OPEN AND APPARENT WILLINGNESS OF ETHIOPIANS TO CONTINUE COOPERATION

WITH US IN SPITE OF STRESSES PRODUCED BY OGADEN CONFLICT AND THEIR DEPENDENCE UPON SOVIETS.

4. HARROP THEN DISCUSSED US HORN POLICY, EMPHASIZING US VIEW THAT SETTLEMENT MUST INCLUDE WITHDRAWAL OF SOMALI FORCES FROM ETHIOPIAN TERRITORY.

5. HARROP SAID US WAS WORKING ACTIVELY TO OBTAIN SOMALI AGREEMENT TO WITHDRAW, AND US CONTINUED FIRM POLICY OF NOT SUPPLYING ARMS DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY. HE MENTIONED CURRENT CONSIDERATION OF UN SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION, AND OUTLINED THE SUBSTANCE OF RESOLUTION SUPPORTIVE OF OAU MEDIATION WHICH WE WOULD SUPPORT. HARROP STRESSED THAT US WOULD SUPPORT A CEASEFIRE ONLY AS PRELUDE TO SOMALI WITHDRAWAL. (NG'ANG'A OFFERED NO KENYAN VIEW ON DESIRABILITY OF UNSC CONSIDERATION).

6. HARROP WENT OVER US ANALYSIS OF POTENTIAL DANGERS TO WHOLE REGION, INCLUDING ETHIOPIA ITSELF, AND BEYOND THE REGION, OF STRONGLY ENTRENCHED SOVIET/CUBAN MILITARY PRESENCE IN ETHIOPIA. HARROP POINTED OUT THAT THOSE COUNTRIES WHICH WERE ASSISTING SOMALIA WERE NOT DOING SO BECAUSE THEY SUPPORTED SOMALIA'S CLAIM TO THE OGADEN, BUT BECAUSE THEY OPPOSED THE EXTENSION OF SOVIET AND CUBAN POWER IN THIS AREA.

7. NG'ANG'A EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE "LUCID EXPLANATION
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OF AMERICAN POLICY" AND SAID THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD BE GRATIFIED TO HEAR OF THE EFFORTS OF THE US TO IMPROVE COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE PMAC. HE THEN DESCRIBED KENYA'S FIRM SUPPORT OF ETHIOPIA, THE VICTIM OF AGGRESSION, AND DISCUSSED THE LONG HISTORY OF KENYA'S RELATIONS WITH SOMALIA. HE SAID THAT KENYA WAS VERY HAPPY THAT THE US WAS NOW CALLING FOR SOMALI WITHDRAWAL FROM THE OGADEN AS A CONDITION FOR SETTLEMENT. SOMALI IRRIDENTISM WAS THE MOST DANGEROUS AND DESTABILIZING ELEMENT IN THE AREA. KENYA ACTIVELY FEARED A SOMALI ATTACK WHETHER SIAD BARRE WON OR LOST HIS OGADEN ADVENTURE, AND KENYA MUST PROTECT ITSELF.

8. IN RESPONSE TO A HARROP QUESTION AS TO GOK POLICY ON ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE (LARGELY SOMALI OCCUPIED) NORTH EASTERN PROVINCE, NG'ANG'A SAID THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WAS DOING ITS UTMOST TO BRING DEVELOPMENT TO THIS AREA, WHICH WAS ALREADY MUCH MORE DEVELOPED THAN ANY PART OF SOMALIA. HE DESCRIBED MODERN HOSPITALS, SCHOOLS, AGRICULTURAL TRAINING CENTERS AND THE LIKE IN GLOWING TERMS. NG'ANG'A SAID THAT, IN KEEPING WITH THE 1967 ARUSHA AGREEMENT WITH SOMALIA, KENYA HAD EVEN BEEN

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 NAIROBI 2678

WILLING TO PERMIT THE MOGADISCIO GOVERNMENT TO CHECK ON THE
WELFARE OF THE ETHNIC SOMALIS IN THE NEP. HE SAID THAT IN
LIGHT OF SUBSEQUENT DEVELOPMENT IT WOULD BE BERY DIFFICUTL FOR
KENYA TO SIGH SUCH A FORTHCOMING AGREEMENT AGAIN.

9. NG'ANG'A DENIED THAT SOMALIA HAD EVER REALLY OFFERED A NON-
AGGRESSION TREATY, ASIDE FROM A DISINGENUOUS PROPOSAL SOME
MONTHS BACK FOR FEDERATION OF ALL THE SEPARATE PROVINCES OF
KENYA AND SOMLIA.

10. NG'ANG'A STRESSED KENYA'S UNYIELDING OPPOSITION TO
COMMUNISM BUT LEFT NO DOUBT THAT THE KENYAN PEOPLE AND GOVERN-
MENT SAW A CLEAR AND PRESENT DANGER OF ATTACK FROM SOMALIA, AND
DEFENSE AGAINST THIS DANGER MUST TAKE FIRST PRIORITY.

11. NG'ANG'A WAS ABLE TO ADD NO SPECIFICS AS TO KENYAN AGENDA
FOR VISIT. HE REITERATED THAT KENYA WANTED TO MAKE FIRST-HAND
PRESENTATION OF KENYAN VIEWS ON PROBLEM OF HORN AND DISCUSS HIS
COUNTRY'S SECURITY NEEDS. HE REEMPHASIZED HIS GOVERNMENT'S
RELUCTANCE TO SPEND LARGE SUMS ON DEFENSE BUT SAID THAT KENYA HAD
CONCLUDED THAT THERE WAS AN ACTIVE THREAT FROM SOMALIA AND
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POTENTIAL THREATS FROM OTHER QUARTERS AND THAT THE NATION WOULD

HAVE TO DEPEND ON ITSELF FOR ITS DEFENSE. AMBASSADOR AND HARROP POINTED OUT THAT IT WOULD BE HIGHLY USEFUL FOR WASHINGTON TO HAVE MORE DETAILED INFORMATION ON KENYAN OBJECTIVES IN ORDER TO BE BETTER PREPARED FOR VISIT.

12. COMMENT: NG'ANG'A WAS CLEARLY PLEASED TO HEAR THAT US AND ETHIOPIA ARE WORKING TO BETTER THE RELATIONS AND WAS REASSURED BY HARROP'S UNAMBIGUOUS DECLARATION OF US POSITION ON SOMALI WITHDRAWAL FROM ETHIOPIA TERRITORY.

13. WITHOUT DOUBT HARROP VISIT HAS HELPED GET US-KENYA RELATIONS BACK ON TRACK AND EASE KENYAN SUSPICIONS THAT US IS SOLELY COMMITTED TO SOMALI SIDE WHEN CONSIDERING THE SEVERAL

FACETS OF THE SITUATION IN HORN. FACT THAT MOI COULD NOT KEEP APPOINTMENT SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED AS SLIGHT, SINCE WE HAVE LEARNED HE WAS UNABLE TO RETURN FROM NAKURU, WHERE HE WAS WITH PRESIDENT.

14. NG'ANG'A DECLARATIONS ON KENYA EFFORTS TO DEVELOP NEP ECONOMICALLY MAY HAVE BEEN TRUE, BUT SINCE REGION IS SO POOR AND DESOLATE THERE REMAINS A GREAT DEAL TO DO. AND INHABITANTS REMAIN UNCONVINCED THAT GOVERNMENT IS VERY CONCERNED WITH THEIR WELFARE.
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